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WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

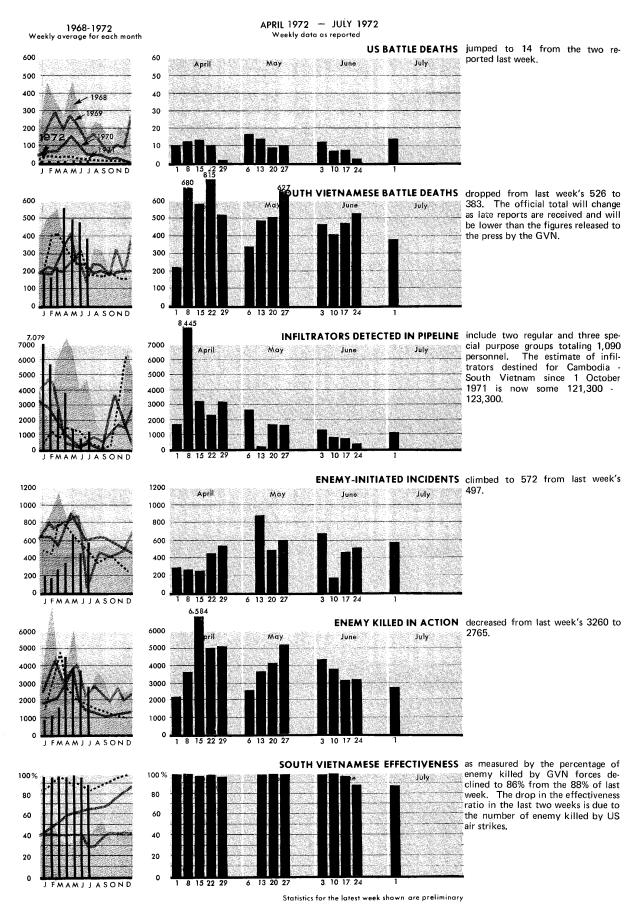
Week Ending 1 July 1972

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS



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Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam, the Communists reacted slowly at first to the GVN offensive in northern MR 1 which began in mid-week. At the week's end, heavy rains were temporarily hindering the movement of GVN forces and enemy resistance had stiffened. The enemy has suffered heavy casualties in the operation to date and has lost large amounts of equipment to the heaviest combined air-naval gunfire-ground artillery attacks of the war. West of Hue, Communist forces have become more active in the past several days in an apparent effort to draw friendly forces from the Quang Tri front, but the First ARVN Division is holding firm in this area. The situation elsewhere in South Vietnam was relatively quiet as the enemy continued to pull his forces back from the Kontum, Binh Dinh, and An Loc areas of combat. The North Vietnamese moved more forces into northern MR 4 during the week, however, increasing the threat to this part of the Delta.

In northern Laos, heavy monsoon rains hampered military activity on both sides. On 1 and 2 July, 1300 fresh government irregulars were airlifted into Long Tieng in an effort to get the government's stalled drive against NVA positions southwest of the Plain of Jars moving again. In the Lao Panhandle, government units have made slow progress in clearing NVA forces from the provincial capital of Khong Sedone. In an apparent effort to relieve government pressure on Khong Sedone, Communist forces increased their activity in the nearby area to the east of Pakse.

No significant action occurred in Cambodia, although some North Vietnamese units committed to the offensive in South Vietnam are refitting and regrouping on Cambodian soil.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

Personnel infiltration remained at the seasonal low level with 1,090 personnel accepted during the week. The estimate of NVA infiltrators destined for Cambodia and South Vietnam since 1 October 1971 now stands at 121,300 - 123,300.

In North Vietnam, the new petroleum pipeline to China appears to be rapidly nearing completion. When fully operational, it will provide the North Vietnamese with a link between the recently expanded Ping-hsiang petroleum storage area in China and the existing North Vietnamese pipeline system which runs to the DMZ and southern Laos. Recent evidence also indicates that some 2,900 of the 5,000 trucks which the Soviet Union has contracted to deliver to North Vietnam in 1972 have already been shipped by the USSR.